(e) At present there is no proposal under consideration to adopt a new fertilizer policy in the current financial year.

(f) Does not arise.

Expansion by NFL

7461. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposal from the National Fertilziers Limited (NFL) to undertake low cost expansion programme of its units;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion programme; and

(c) the funds earmarked and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) have, in principle, decided to expand their Panipat fertilizer plan to produce an additional 7.26 lakh MT of urea per annum at an estimated cost of Rs. 1100 crores. The company has already made a preliminary presentation to the Government as a part of their exercise to firm up the proposals. NFl also proposes to expand their Nangal unit through debottlenecking to produce an additional 1.81 lakh MT of urea per annum. Since NFL is a MOU signing company, Government approval is not required for the Nangal expansion project estimated to cost about Rs. 40 crores.

Manufacturers of Rifa-S and Ethambutol

7462. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the major manufacturers of Rifa-S and Ethambutol in the country;

(b) the demand and production of Rifa-S and Ethambutol during 1994-95;

(c) whether Ethambutol has been kept out of the purview of price control;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ensure availability of these and other life saving drugs at affordable rates to rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In the organised sector, Rifa-S is manufactured by M/s. Lupin Chemicals and M/s. Gujarat Themis Biosyn Limited and Ethambutol by M/s. Cadila Labs, M/s. Lupin Labs, M/s. Lyka Labs and M/s. Themis Chemicals.

(b) As per avialable information, the estimated demand and production of Rifa-S and Ethambutol during 1994-95 is indicated below:

	Demand	Production
Rifa-S	312.00 MT	137.912 MT
Ethambutol	531.00 MT	685.44 MT

(c) and (d) Ethambutol is kept outside price control on the basis of market competition criteria.

(e) Keeping in view the need to make available quality products in abundant quantity and at reasonable prices to the consumers, the Government has announced "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" in September, 1994.

Proposal for the Closure of Fertilizer Units

7463. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to close down some fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, the number and the location of the fertilizer units proposed to be closed-down;